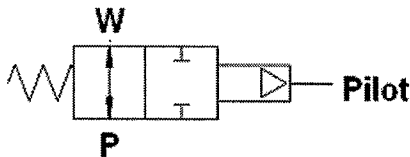


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

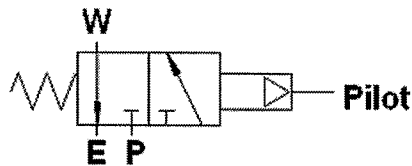
This Response is in reply to the Office Action mailed on December 13, 2006, wherein Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 14-22 were rejected as not being enabling under § 112, para. 1, and as obvious with respect to *Schumann* in view of *Edelman*. In response to the Examiner's rejection under § 112, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14, 17 and 21 to identify each of the gates or flanges used as separators in the recoil valve as well as the communication between the gas supply and the recoil valve. Furthermore, Applicants have added new claims 23-25 to further clarify the invention. As a result, Applicant submits that the specification provides an enabling disclosure of the as claimed.

With respect to the rejections under § 103 under *Edelman* and *Schumann*, Applicant again submits that these references do not, alone or in combination, teach the present invention as claimed. As the Examiner has noted, *Edelman* discloses a pneumatic weapon that incorporates pressure reduction valves to fire a projectile from the barrel of the weapon. Because the primary function of the pneumatic weapon is to propel a projectile down the barrel, a simple on/off firing valve **130** is all that is required. A diagram of this valve is shown as follows:



When the valve is in its normal, closed position, both the pressure port and the work part are blocked. When pressure is applied to the pilot port, the valve shifts, allowing air to flow through the work port and down the barrel, propelling the projectile. Thus, this device has two ports.

Such a valve would not function in the design described in the pending claims. Rather, the valve as described includes four gates when including the proximal end of the recoil valve. Since the recoil cylinder is a closed system, a means of allowing the air to escape after valve actuation is required. A diagram of the recoil valve is shown as follows:



When the valve is in its normal, position, the pressure port (P) is blocked, and the work (W) port is open to exhaust (E). When pressure is applied to the pilot port, the valve shifts, allowing air to flow from the pressure port, through the work port and into the spring biased cylinder, causing the cylinder to extend. When pilot pressure is removed, the valve returns to its normal position, causing the pressure port to be blocked, and connecting the work port to the exhaust port. The cylinder bias spring forces the cylinder to retract, and the air is allowed to escape through the exhaust port. Without a two-way valve, the cylinder would not be able to retract because the air would remain trapped in the cylinder.

Furthermore, as previously noted, the elements of *Edelman* that the Examiner cites as the three gates and distal and central cavities are not gates. In particular, the Examiner initially cites the O-rings **15c** and **15b** as gates for the recoil valve, but they are not gates at all. Thereafter, the Examiner cites a dividing wall **142**, a plastic valve seat **180**, and an axial plug **182** as gates of a valve, and further describes a piston cylinder **144** as the distal valve cavity. These elements cited by the Examiner do not act as valve gates or the distal valve cavity as defined in the claims and

described in the Applicants' specification. The only components of *Edelman* that could be considered gates would be found in Figure 13 as the components that allow pressure to flow in and out of the tubular body **140**. Thus, *Edelman* does not teach the elements of the claimed invention as asserted in the previous Office Action. Since neither *Schumann* nor *Edelman* describe the elements as claimed in the patent application, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of the cited references.

Furthermore, as noted above, the valve *Edelman* and *Schumann* would not create a functioning device. The firing valve cited in *Edelman* would not operate with *Schumann* since there is no means of allowing the air to escape after valve actuation is required. Prima facie obviousness is not demonstrated if the combination of the substitution, combination or other modifications suggested by the Examiner is not supported by the references themselves because the references do not provide a reasonable expectation of success in making the substitution, combination or modification. In re O'Farrell, 7 U.S.P.Q.2d 1673, 1681 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Consequently, the present claims are not obvious.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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